

# SUGAR and PLANTATION NEWS

## YEAR'S SUGAR USE SHOWS DECREASE

Heavy Exports, Higher Prices Lower Total Consumption in United States

Sugar consumption in the United States during 1916 dropped materially. Figures from two sources show this reduction in the use of the principal product of the Hawaiian Islands, and though somewhat different in detail, they agree in general tenor.

An Associated Press dispatch received yesterday from Washington announced the figures given out by the department of commerce as showing a drop in sugar consumption during 1916 that brought the total lower than any year since 1912.

Heavy exports and light imports and a poor American crop are the causes attributed by the department of commerce. The department figures show a consumption of 78.13 pounds per capita during 1916, against 84.06 pounds for 1915. The United States consumed 7,960,000,000 pounds of sugar, according to the government figures, while the world production was 37,103,000,000 pounds.

**Willett & Gray Figures**  
Willett & Gray, in their review of 1916, show the same falling off in sugar consumption. Their figures show the consumption of sugar at 3,558,607 tons, a decrease of 142,524 tons from 1915, or 2.75 per cent, against an increase of 40,704 tons, or 1.082 per cent for 1915 and a 3.494 per cent average yearly increase for thirty years.

The average price for granulated for 1916 was 6.562 cents, and for centrifugal, duty paid, 5.786 cents; difference, 1.076 cents, against last year's difference of 0.917 cents.

Writing of the causes of the decreased consumption of sugar, and reviewing the situation for the year, Willett & Gray's report states:

**High Prices Chief Cause**  
"The decrease in consumption in the U. S. is directly attributable to the higher prices that have prevailed throughout the entire year.

"Another factor, almost as important in this connection, was the late start of the beet harvest in Ohio, Michigan and the Middle West.

"This delay, caused by an unfavorable growing season, precluded the possibility of easier prices during September to December, and instead of there being ample supplies of beet sugar to relieve the market, there was only a limited supply for the Middle West and none for territory east of Buffalo and Pittsburgh. These conditions accounted for the sharp advance in prices during the period of September-November.

**Beet Consumption Less**  
"Although the 1915-16 beet crop was a large one and 1916-17 crop even at reduced estimates of 775,000 tons is also of good size, the consumption of beet sugars shows a decrease during the calendar year. A considerable portion of the 1916-17 crop is being carried over to 1917 for delivery.

"Atlantic ports refiners' meetings are again the largest on record, the refiners in general being worked nearer to their capacity than in any previous year. The very large export figures, however, have reduced the business of the Atlantic ports refiners.

"Below is a table showing the destination in detail of the record exports of 635,579 tons from Atlantic ports and 59,900 tons from New Orleans during 1916, the figures being in tons of 2240 pounds of refined sugar:

Great Britain, France	415,611
Switzerland	9,772
Norway	60,921
Denmark	3,267
Greece	26,398
Holland	8,440
Belgium	11,576
Gibraltar	2,178
Spain	12,059
Portugal	1,336
Italy	19,576
Other Countries	64,140
Total—Atlantic Ports	635,579
New Orleans	59,900
Total	694,369

"The figures of Cuba sugars consumed in the United States in 1916 show lower than the corresponding figures for 1915. In both cases, and especially the latter, the importations were larger, but again the exports play their part, as these imported duty-paying sugars were largely used for the manufacture of export refined.

**Beets Encouraged on South**  
"New Orleans refinery operations suffered a small setback in total tons landed, due to the energies of the beet factories extending their territory further and further into what used to be regarded as New Orleans markets.

"Galveston importations of Cuba and Porto Rico raws showed an increase, however. These latter sugars go to the refinery at Sugar Land for refining. The rapidly increasing population and business prosperity of Texas makes this increase easy of absorption.

"San Francisco shows an increase of about 90,000 tons sugars through this port. This is just about the increase shown in our six months' consumption figures, published by us on July 6, 1916.

## LOW SUPPLY OF RAW SUGAR FORCES REFINERIES TO BUY AT HIGHER PRICES

Forecast of a radical reduction in the Cuba crop estimates and information about the supplies of raws are contained in the correspondence of a local sugar house received from its New York representative. The letter is dated January 5 and gives a reliable review of the market situation for the first week of the month. The letter follows:

"A combination of circumstances has forced refiners to become anxious about their supplies of raws for this month, and we have seen this anxiety translated from day to day into purchases by them of raw sugar, particularly spot and nearby positions, at gradual advances.

**Raw Supplies Small**  
"As stated in our last week's report the trade is bare of supplies and all of this week has been taking quite respectable quantities of refined sugar for immediate consumption.

"Now that the duty paid price has advanced to 5.39 cents and the basis for refined sugar being 6.75 cents there is not the abnormal difference there was, and as in these days the refiners differential must be around 1-1-16 cents there is not much reason for them to contemplate further reductions especially so long as demand continues healthy as it is at present.

**Freight Situation Bad**  
"Stocks of raw sugar available are very low and transportation troubles of one kind and another in Cuba are militating against the relief we ordinarily look for at this time.

"The freight situation is very far from reassuring, in fact is rather worse than last year so that we are not expecting to see enough sugar brought here week by week to replace the weekly meetings small as these now are.

"Latest reports state that 100 Cuba Centrals are now operating against 123 at the same time last year.

**Market Is Bullish**  
"The refined sugar market as we have already indicated has shown considerable activity this week and all refiners are quoting on the basis of 6.75 cents or 6.615 cents net against raws at 5.39 cents duty paid making the differential now 1.225 cents and the market for raws disposed of anything to advance further.

"Gossip on 'the street' today seems to be very bullish. Sugar in the cane all over Cuba is very low and runs from seven to nine per cent against ten to twelve per cent at this date last year.

"While this condition is remediable in some degree there are many competent judges who believe a radical reduction in estimate of crop inevitable, in fact bets are commencing to be made that the 1917 Cuba crop will be no greater than the one just harvested."

**CORPORATION FORMED TO FINANCE CUBAN PLANTERS**  
Permanent organization of the Sugar Planters' Corporation to finance the producing and selling of Cuban and South American sugar, has been effected in New York.

"The company, which was incorporated with a capitalization of \$750,000, has on its directorate representatives of J. P. Morgan & Co., the United Fruit Company and the Chase National Bank.

John S. Fisk and Dewitt Bailey, both of New York, are president and vice-president, respectively. The corporation, it is stated, will advance money to planters to aid them in plantation work and in the shipment of raw sugar to this country.

**Results Proved Satisfactory**  
NEW ORLEANS, December 22—Those planters who participated in the American Sugar Refining Company are very much gratified over the results of that transaction. So much so, in fact, that the majority have accepted the informal suggestion of the American Cane Growers' Association and have agreed to contribute one cent for every bag sold under that agreement, to be credited to the general treasury fund of that body.

"There have been no recent developments in the damage suits pending against the American, but those close in touch with this litigation express the belief that it is yet possible to reach a compromise favorable to all concerned.

"The outer suit instituted by the State of Louisiana is not being pressed at this time. The date set for the filing of an answer by the American was fixed for early January by the Civil District Court, after the Supreme Court had sent the case back to be tried on its merits, and until the answer is filed no further steps will be taken by the state's attorneys.

San Francisco's business was much better the first half of the year, on the sugar market than obtaining. Their last half year's business only held its own in which two declining periods were included.

"Louisiana and related domestic cane consumption was slightly smaller, but the Louisiana crop was very small, and while this year's crop is much better, consumption has not been going forward at a normal pace, due to the comparatively high prices."

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## VIRGIN OAHU LAND IS SUBJECT OF VARIETY AND FERTILIZATION TESTS

Investigations to determine just how much black alkali is responsible for the playing out of Lihaina cane, and how these alkaline conditions can be corrected, are being continued at the planters' experiment station.

The high iron content of Hawaiian soils apparently admits of unusually large accumulations of black alkali before the toxic point is reached. It appears plausible that this iron retards the corrective reactions such as are usually obtained with gypsum and similar substances.

The soil investigations are being aligned with the field experiments of the agricultural department. The newly inaugurated field tests on the upper lands of the Oahu Sugar Company are considered as offering unusual opportunities in this connection.

**Tests in Virgin Soil**  
Undoubtedly this work of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association experiment station constitutes the best planned and most carefully conducted sugar cane experiments to be found in any cane-growing country. The investigators are starting with virgin soil on the mauka lands of Oahu Plantation, and this fact alone makes the experiments of special interest.

A comprehensive set of fertilizer and cane variety tests will be followed both with respect to field yields and the ultimate effect on the composition of the soil as determined in the laboratory.

The constituents carefully recorded, so that a study of soil changes may be made from time to time.

**All Carefully Planned**  
Everything possible has been done to prevent the introduction of errors. All the rows are straight rows, a full water course in width. The "hapa's" or half rows are planted to what is called crop cane, which is not used as an experimental cane. The outside rows and those along the ditches are called "police rows" and are also planted to crop cane.

The experiments are in two sections, one of thirty-seven acres, being part of field forty-five, and another of thirty-two acres in field forty-nine. Of this area a little more than fifty-six acres is in experimental cane.

The section in field forty-five consists of six experiments, all of which relate to fertilization, except one, which is a variety test comparing Lihaina with seven other varieties.

It has been said that fully seventy-five per cent of what were once considered to be facts in regard to sugar cane fertilization have been given up as such in recent years; so that fertilizers offer a big field for experiments.

An interesting experiment in this group is one continuous feeding with nitrate of soda. The nitrate is to be dissolved in the water with each irrigation until one hundred and fifty pounds of nitrogen per acre has been applied. This is to be compared with cane that is to receive the same amount of nitrogen in four separate applications.

Another experiment is one to determine the amount of fertilizer to apply, the plots receiving from nothing up to 375 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

Reverted phosphate vs. super phosphate is to be decided upon in one experiment, and the required amount of potash and phosphoric acid that sugar cane needs for a maximum growth is the object of another experiment.

**Lime and Gypsum Trials**  
The last experiment in the group is in regard to the use of lime and gypsum. Lime at the rate of two thousand pounds per acre was applied in the furrow before planting. The gypsum was applied in the same way but at the rate of four thousand pounds per acre.

One of the experiments there on plant food requirements ought to help to decide the question.

Some of the plots are to receive a full course meal of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash, and some are served with one and two of the elements while others receive none.

In what form nitrogen is most acceptable to the cane is the object of one of these experiments and another will attempt to show whether the cane prefers its added plant food in four equal meals or in one large meal, or possibly two equal feedings.

The advantage of reverted phosphate over acid phosphate and complete fertilizer over nitrogen only, are two other facts to be determined.

The effect of the application of coral sand at the rate of six tons to the acre is to be studied.

**Work Is Fundamental**  
There is a preliminary test also, to show the results of soaking seed before planting, and the advantage of hot or cold water for soaking.

A legume experiment and one in which common salt is added in various amounts may help to throw some light on the ever puzzling Lihaina Disease.

These experiments are all of a fundamental nature and the results ought to be useful to the plantation managers.

It is understood that a set of experiments, planned along the same lines, is to be put in at Punahele soon, by the experiment station.

**HEAVY BUYING OF CUBAS REPORTED AT NEW YORK**  
Increased activity in the New York market, particularly in Cubas for February and March delivery, was reported to Alexander & Baldwin yesterday in a message from its New York correspondent. Under date of January 17, the message reads:

"Sales are 50,000 to 75,000 bags of Cubas to 5.27 clearance up to January 20; 10,000 bags of Porto Rico January clearance at 5.14; 20,000 bags of Cuba first half of February at 5.20; all February at 5.14.

"February and March deliveries are valuable to refiners at 5.02.

"Thirty thousand tons of Cubas, February and March, sold at the equivalent of 5.02 in exchange for refined to be shipped to England."

**HAWAII AND PORTO RICO PRODUCTION COST SAME**  
(By The Associated Press.)  
SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, January 19—The cost of producing sugar in Porto Rico is approximately the same as in Hawaii and about one cent a pound more than the cost of production in Cuba, according to the unofficial statements made here by members of an investigating commission from the department of commerce, Washington, who have been obtaining information as to sugar production costs.

The commission, composed of five members, has completed its work after obtaining cost figures direct from the books of twenty-three sugar companies in all sections of the island.

Similar studies have been made in Hawaii, Cuba and Louisiana to determine the cost of domestic cane sugar production as compared with the cost of production in Cuba.

**MINNESOTAN IS DUE TO ARRIVE HERE TOMORROW**  
The Minnesotan, the first American-Hawaiian steamer of the season, is expected to arrive in port tomorrow, and be ready for loading sugar about the end of the month. The Minnesotan has a cargo of coal to unload at Pearl Harbor for the government. Matson steamers are expected to take out the sugar shipments for the next ten days. After that the American Hawaiian steamers will be ready to start their regular fourteen day sailing schedule.

## George M. Rolph To Lecture On Refining

George M. Rolph, general manager of the California and Hawaiian Sugar Refining Company at Crockett, California, will give a lecture in the Opera House, Monday, January 29, on the process of refining sugar. The lecture will be illustrated by several reels of motion pictures.

Mr. Rolph is now on his way to Honolulu on the Manoa due to arrive here Wednesday. He is coming on important business for the Sugar Factors Company.

A. M. Nowell, manager of the Sugar Factors Company, is making the arrangements for Mr. Rolph's lecture. Admission will be by invitation. Cards are to be sent out entitling the holder to reserved seats. It is expected that the Opera House will be filled to capacity for the lecture. Mr. Nowell is now compiling the names of those to whom invitations will be sent from lists sent to him from educational institutions and others interested.

## New Crop Sugar Shipment To Date Exceeds Last Year

Shipments of new crop sugars up to and including the departure of the Lurline last Wednesday totaled 35,226 tons. This represents shipments from all plantations, both those shipping through the Sugar Factors Company and those shipping independently.

Revised figures compiled by A. M. Nowell of the Sugar Factors Company place the estimate of the total crop for 1917 at 641,570 tons.

Shipments up to January 16 through the Sugar Factors Company totaled 32,754 tons of which 13,188 tons were consigned to Eastern refiners and 19,566 tons to the Pacific Coast refiners. Independent shipments up to last Wednesday were 3473, making the total of 35,226 of new crop this year.

Last year Sugar Factors Company shipments to January 16 totaled 21,327 tons of which 13,522 tons went East and 7,805 tons went to the Pacific Coast.

## COOL WEATHER PREVAILS; CROP DEVELOPMENT SLOW

The weather report for the week ending January 13, from the United States department of agriculture weather bureau, is as follows:

"Cool weather prevailed during the week in nearly all districts, and little progress was made in crop development. A Kona storm accompanied by thunder and lightning on the tenth brought heavy precipitation to Hawaii, Maui and Oahu. The summit of Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa and Haleakala were covered with snow at the close of the week. Minimum temperatures on Oahu during the night of the twelfth were the lowest of record for over a year. By islands, the average rainfall for the week was as follows: Hawaii, 2.64 inches; Maui, 1.35 inches; Oahu, 3.60 inches; Kauai, 0.64 inch."

The summary of local conditions, from information furnished by correspondents, follows:

Kohala Mill, Hawaii—Rather cool weather this week; Kona storm during the night of the tenth eleventh.

Honolulu, Hawaii—Rainfall this week was 2.64 inches more than last week. Cool nights; Mauna Kea covered with snow.

Ponahawai, Hawaii—Temperatures have been low. First four days of week rainy; last three fair. Very little progress can be noticed in growing crops at present.

Glenwood Experiment Station, Hawaii—Most of this week's rain fell during the first three days. Soil in good condition for tillage at end of the week.

Haiku Experiment Station, Maui—Exceptionally clear and cool weather for Haiku. Winds variable mostly S.W. and N.W. Small patches of snow on summit of Haleakala on the morning of the ninth.

Heila, Oahu—Minimum temperature of 56.4 degrees on January twelfth was the lowest at Heila during the last three years. Light trade winds on sixth, seventh and eighth. Strong Kona during the evening of the ninth and during the day of the tenth. Thunderstorm during the evening of the ninth; heavy rain started about eleven p. m.

## CHILEAN SUGAR REFINERS MERGE; CONTROL OUTPUT

The Department of Commerce in Washington brings the information that Chile is in the throes of a great merging process of sugar refineries. The Refineria de Azucar de Vina del Mar and the Refineria de Azucar de Penco will merge into one, and as they control practically the whole output, the reduction of organization expenses and the elimination of competition and larger profits for the stockholders. There is an active demand for sugar in Chile and the country has exported some sections.

**Haddock To Join Mill**  
G. R. Haddock, formerly assistant chemist at the sugar planters' experiment station, left for Hawaii Wednesday to take the position of chemist at Union Mill.

**Grandhomme Changes**  
A. Grandhomme, who recently was chemist for Hutchinson Sugar Company, is now employed in a like capacity at the Hanalei Mill, on Kauai.

## COPPER AND OIL LEAD MARKET ON LOCAL EXCHANGE

While listed stocks held little interest and continued mostly firm at last sale prices, Engels Copper and Honolulu Oil led the trading on the local exchange yesterday which was featured by the heavy transaction in unlisted securities.

Shares sold of listed totaled 1121, of which 250 were at the session. Unlisted share sales totaled 25,730 of which 13,225 were Mineral Products.

Engels held firm at 8.75 after opening below that mark reached Wednesday and closed 8.75 bid and 9.00 asked. Oil jumped twenty cents to 4.70 and closed big strong at 4.65 and 4.75 asked. Mineral Products was weak at heavy sales at 1.02 1/2. Bingham declined to 44 cents, America went down to 33 cents.

San Carlos gained half yesterday while practically all other sugar stocks were without change. H. C. & S. declined half to 50.50 and Waiialua dropped a quarter at 30.75.

## KUHIO PROPOSES LAW TO PERMIT CANE CAR TRAINS TO DISCARD POWER BRAKES

Delegate Kuhio has introduced a bill into congress proposing to relieve sugar plantation railroads from the necessity of using power brakes on cars used exclusively for the transportation of cane. The text of the bill follows:

"A bill to relieve the railroads in Porto Rico and Hawaii from the provisions of the safety appliance acts—requiring the use of power brakes on cars used exclusively for the transportation of sugar cane.

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that the provisions relating to power or train brakes contained in the act entitled 'An Act to promote the safety of employees and travelers upon railroads by compelling common carriers engaged in interstate commerce to equip their cars with automatic couplers and continuous brakes and their locomotives with driving-wheel brakes, and for other purposes,' approved March second, eighteen hundred and ninety-three, and in the acts in amendment thereto, approved April first, eighteen hundred and ninety-six, and March second, nineteen hundred and three, shall not apply to trains operated upon railroads in Porto Rico and Hawaii composed of cars exclusively used for the transportation of sugar cane.

**M'CARTHY FAVORS BOND ISSUE PLANS**  
That a first class water system, such as a system as it is contemplated to build with the money from the bond issue, will materially reduce insurance rates, is one of the reasons advanced by Col. C. J. McCarthy, territorial treasurer and insurance commissioner, for supporting the bonds.

According to Colonel McCarthy, the insurance rates will be reduced from ten to twenty per cent on the completion of the water system. The rates are fixed by the board of fire underwriters on points of efficiency in a city's fire and water departments. As the departments are brought to a higher point of efficiency the rates are automatically lowered.

During 1916 the city paid \$602,434.14 in insurance premiums. If the rate is reduced ten per cent it will be a direct saving to property owners of \$60,000 annually. If the rate is reduced twenty per cent, the saving will be \$120,000 annually. It is not until the bond issue, to figure out that the bond issue of \$480,000 could be paid off in a short time merely by a saving in the insurance rate.

Colonel McCarthy is strongly in favor of the bond issue and believes that the people of Honolulu will not lose this opportunity to get their water and sewer improvements.

That Honolulu occupies a prominent place in the minds of eastern capitalists is shown by the fact that City Treasurer Conkling has received a number of inquiries in regard to the proposed bond issue. Two firms in New York, one in Indianapolis, one in Chicago and another in Cleveland have written to the treasurer asking if the city intends to entertain bids from private individuals.

As the bonds bear interest at five per cent and as Honolulu has a high rating of credit on the mainland, it is not surprising that eastern capital should make an effort to procure the \$480,000 of bonds for the water and sewer systems.

**JAPANESE SEND OVER TWO MILLION TO HOME COUNTRY**  
(By The Associated Press.)  
TOKIO, January 19—Japanese residents of the United States during the first ten months of 1916 remitted \$2,215,000 to their home country. The figures are announced by the department of communications.

**Planters Raise Wages**  
NEW ORLEANS, December 29—The planters of Louisiana, taking into consideration that the high cost of living has hit the agricultural communities of the South as well as the manufacturing centers of other parts of the country, have agreed voluntarily to increase the wages of the negro field hands from ten to fifteen per cent, commencing on January 1, 1917.

**Seeking Larger Acreage**  
SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, December 19—The Utah-Idaho Sugar Company is making every effort to increase the acreage planted to beets at all of its factories for 1917. This policy is not confined to Utah and Idaho, but extends to Nevada, Oregon and Washington, where the company will operate factories next year.

**German Sugar Scarcity**  
A despatch dated at London says that an investigation into the increasing mortality rate in Berlin established that the rising rate is due to insufficient sugar allowance, according to an Amsterdam despatch. It was decided that each child born after December 1 shall have an additional half pound of sugar monthly, the rations of others being proportionately reduced. Babies have been getting a pound and a half monthly.

**Beet Estimate Lower**  
Unfavorable weathering during the growing and harvesting period has caused a reduction in the estimate of the beet sugar crop, according to figures of Willett & Gray. Their estimate is now 775,000 tons, against a previous estimate of 840,000 tons.

**Another California Project**  
RIVERSIDE, California, December 19—The Stearns Rogers Company, of Denver, it is reported, has offered to install a sugar factory at Riverside with an ultimate capacity of at least 1,000 tons of beets per day if the people of the district will subscribe stock in the company to a certain amount and provided growers for 10,000 acres can be signed up to grow sugar beets.

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